

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 13, 2002 LB 185

short lines it's five ties per 39 feet. And a lot of hazardous material is carried by the...by the Class I's and very, very little is carried by the short lines, probably more in the area of anhydrous and things like that, to their location. Generally, the Class I's are unscheduled operations. That's they're 24-hour-a-day operations. With the short lines, they're mostly...mostly daylight operations. The Class I's are unionized employees, but the short lines also have unionized employees. I don't know that all of them are unionized, but they are...they are some unionized. The large multiple engines are used on the Class I, and small single engines are used on...on the short lines. We looked at a list of the...of the short line railroads in Nebraska, and with these short lines, there were designated 12 of them and there are only about four that do anything other than just terminal type operation, and those four are small lines. The Nebraska Central, which operates...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...on UP trackage...I'm sorry, was...did somebody say something? Okay. Most of the trackage is restricted to 5 to 25 miles an hour. The Nebraska Northeastern operates between Ferry and O'Neill, and it's restricted speeds on all the trackage. The NCC...NKC Railnet operates in southwest Nebraska and that's restricted speed, and the Sidney and Lowe is a track repair facility near Sidney and is used to repair Burlington Northern, Union Pacific and other owners of freight cars. By and large, the others are within terminals and they're not affected. If I was to attempt to clarify the difference that Senator Brashear has referred to that we need to make certain that we're maintaining safety with these trains as well as with the other trains, I...I would say that with the short line railroads they don't always have two persons in the crew, but when they don't, they have someone...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...driving along side and...in a truck and making the switches. But they're short operations and...